

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 SCCT-01 MC-01 AID-05 OPR-01 SCS-03

USSS-00 OCE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

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R 052205Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8726

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

DIA DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8130

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF VILLAR ASSASSINATION

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8077

1. EX-FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF VILLAR BURIED NOV 2 WITH FULL HONORS. FUNERAL SERVICES ATTENDED BY MRS. PERON, LASTIRI, ROCAMORA, SAVINO AND OTHER LEADING FIGURES. MAGARIDE, WHO AT THAT TIME STILL DEPUTY CHIEF, DELIVERED EULOGY IN WHICH HE PROMISED TO BRING GUILTY PARTIES TO JUSTICE AND CLEAN UP TERRORISM IN QUICK ORDER.

2. EMBASSY PRIVATELY AND VERBALLY EXTENDED CONDOLENCES TO GOA THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NORTH AMERICAN DESK.

3. MAGARIDE'S APPOINTMENT AS NEW CHIEF ON NOV 4 (SEE REFTEL) CAME AS A DISTINCT DISAPPOINTMENT TO MILITARY, RADICALES AND MODERATE PERONISTS. MILITARY HAD HOPED FOR APPOINTMENT OF MORE INDEPENDENT, COMPETENT FIGURE. THEY HAD ALSO HOPED THAT NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (KILLED SOME MONTHS BACK BY LOPEZ REGA) MIGHT BE RESURRECTED AND POSSIBLY RETIRED OR

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ACTIVE DUTY GENERAL OFFICER PLACED IN CHARGE. THIS IS STILL

A POSSIBILITY. MRS. PERON REPORTEDLY IS DISCUSSING SECURITY COUNCIL IDEA WITH ADVISORS. IN CEREMONIES ATTENDING HIS INSTALLATION, MARGARIDE REPORTEDLY DOWNPLAYED IDEA, SAYING COUNCIL WAS UNNECESSARY. THIS WAS SEEN MORE AS AN INDIRECT DIG AT MILITARY, HOWEVER, THAN AS A MEASURED COMMENT.

4. RADICALES ARE PRIVATELY EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER APPOINTMENT MARGARIDE, WHO IS BELIEVED TO BE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PLACING NAMES OF SOME UCR LEGISLATORS ON AAA DEATH LIST. SENATOR PERETTE, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS LONG STANDING PERSONAL FEUD WITH MARGARIDE AND THIS IS BELIEVED TO HAVE LED TO INCLUSION OF FORMER (WHO IS NO LEFTIST).

5. MODERATE PERONISTS ARE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THEY HAD HOPED TO SEE SOMEONE OTHER THAN A LOPEZ REGA SUPPORTER GET THE JOB. MARGARIDE, ON CONTRARY, IS EVEN CLOSER TO LOPEZ REGA THAN WAS VILLAR.

6. ABOVE AND APART FROM THESE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS IS MORE DISTURBING FACT THAT MARGARIDE HAS REPUTATION OF BEING SOMETHING OF A WILD MAN, LONG ON THE KNOUT AND SHORT ON COMPETENCE. HAVING A WEAK CHIEF OF POLICE IS A LUXURY ARGENTINA CANNOT LONG AFFORD AT THIS CRUCIAL JUNCTURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS08130
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740318-1100
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741171/aaaacikx.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BUENOS AIRES 8077
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFTERMATH OF VILLAR ASSASSINATION
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005